

CONGRESS.

Opening of the Third Session of the Forty-first Congress.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Cause of the Late Republican Reverses.

Our Policy Towards the Fighting Powers in Europe.

THE ST. DOMINGO TREATY.

Another Urgent Call for Its Ratification.

No Private Interference with the Alabama Claims Negotiation.

THE CANADA FISHERY QUESTION.

Specie Payments, Reforms in the Revenue and Reduction of Taxes.

The Policy of the Administration in a Nutshell.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5, 1870.

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS began to-day. Both houses assembled at noon.

At twelve o'clock precisely the Senate was called to order in the presence of a numerous audience in the galleries. Almost every member of the Senate was in attendance. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. Newman, Chaplain of the Senate, the general business was proceeded with.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA.

The credentials of William Windom, appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to fill the place of Hon. D. S. Norton, deceased, were presented by his colleague, Mr. Rumsey, and read, when Mr. Windom was qualified and took his seat for the unexpired term.

THE ROUTINE OF OPENING.

A committee was appointed to inform the House of the presence of a quorum of the Senate, also a committee in conjunction with a committee of the House to wait upon the President of the United States, and inform him that Congress was ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

As follows were introduced and laid on the table under the organization of the standing committees:

By Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep. of Vt.)—A joint resolution of the Vermont Legislature, urging the payment of the balance of the war claims due that State from the general government.

By Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep. of Oregon)—Bills explanatory of the act admitting the State of Oregon into the Union and amending of the organic act of that territory of Idaho. The former relates to the application of lands for the purpose of common schools; the latter requires the compensation of the members of territorial legislatures.

By Mr. PIATT, (rep. of Ind.)—To provide for the appointment of Clerks of Circuit and District Courts in the District of Indiana and to define their powers and duties.

By Mr. KELLOGG, (rep. of La.)—For the removal of political disabilities.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

By Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.)—A bill to terminate the circulation of United States notes and fractional currency, to strengthen the reserves of the national banks and to promote the return to specie payment. The bill provides that the circulation of United States notes shall cease immediately after its passage and the government shall cease to pay out or receive any fractional currency or promissory notes, except such as may be issued by the Treasury on or before September 30, or of fifty cents after December 31, 1871, at which date all fractional currency in the hands of the public shall be retired.

Section three provides that the Treasurer of the United States shall retain the interest upon the circulation of any bank, and issue therefor special gold certificates of deposit without interest, which may be used as legal tender in all cases in which gold is required as legal tender.

Section four requires that when a national bank withdraws its specie from circulation, it shall be required to issue bonds which shall be the four per cent bonds authorized by the act of July 14, 1870. The remaining three sections require that the Treasury shall not issue any other coin interest, and the substitution in their place of coin interest-bearing bonds within sixty days, and increase the amount of the four and a half per cent bonds authorized by the act of July 14, 1870, to five hundred millions of such bonds.

By Mr. COLE, (rep. of Cal.) and CASSIDY, (dem.) of Cal., introduced bills to abolish the income tax, by the immediate repeal of all laws authorizing its assessment and collection after the 1st day of January 1871.

Mr. COLE introduced bills as follows: To abolish certain charges in the mint; to amend the act of July 14, 1870, by repealing the act which authorized the duty on brandy and prepared opium; also a joint resolution denying the right of settlers on the public lands to the right of preemption.

The latter provides that after June 30, 1871, such notes shall be receivable at their full value for dates on imports.

By Mr. CONKERT, (rep. of N. Y.)—Requesting the President to communicate all the correspondence between the United States Minister at Paris and the Secretary of State since the breaking out of the Franco-Prussian war, so far as it relates to political subjects and matters connected with the said war, as well as to the protection of the interests of the United States.

By Mr. COBURN, (rep. of Oregon)—For information as to the probable cost of the improvement of the Umpqua and Willamette rivers above Oregon City, in Oregon.

By Mr. SUMNER—For information concerning the condition and financial management of the colored schools of Washington and Georgetown, and as to the extent to which the educational needs of the colored population are provided for.

By Mr. SARGENT, (dem.) of Md., relating to the result of the recent elections in the border States and to warrant an investigation by Congress as to what had become of the fifteen amendments and the act of Congress.

A resolution, offered by Mr. THURMUND, (rep. of Ill.), was adopted, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish a copy of the laws and regulations prescribed by him under the act of July 14, 1870, providing for the immediate transportation of merchandise from ports of entry to ports of delivery.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep. of Ohio), made an ineffectual effort to get up the bill concerning jurisdiction to the State of Ohio, relating to the reception of votes of inmates of soldiers' asylums.

At half-past one the President's Message was received and the next hour was occupied in its reading by the Secretary. It was then ordered to be printed.

At twenty-five minutes to three the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1870.

THE WELCOME GREETING.

The opening of the third session of the Forty-first Congress was attended with the usual pleasant greetings between members. But very few had arrived in the city to Saturday morning, and consequently there had been little chance for the interchange of friendly inquiries and assurances until the members met each other on the floor and in the corridors of the House. The results of the recent elections furnished the principal topic of conversation.

tion of congratulation on the success of the few, of regret on the defeat of the many. The morning was as warm and balmy as if the month had been September and not December, and, therefore, the residents and visitors of Washington turned out in great numbers to witness the opening of the session. The galleries and corridors of the House were crowded with spectators. The House was called to order at noon by Mr. Speaker Blaine. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Newman. The House then proceeded to the reading of the President's Message. One hundred and seventy-three members answered to their names. Excuses were made for Kerr, of Indiana; Caldwell, of New York, who were detained here by severe illness.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Ohio), a committee was appointed to join a committee on the subject of the late Republican reverses, and to report thereon at the next session of the House. The committee consisted of Messrs. Sumner, of Ohio; McKim, of New York; and McKim, of New York.

The House then, at two o'clock, took a recess till a quarter to two o'clock, awaiting the reception of the President's Message.

The recess having expired, Mr. Duke, member elect from Virginia, presented himself and took the oath of office.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. To Congress was then delivered, and Mr. McPherson, the Clerk of the House, proceeded to read it. The message was read in the presence of the President and the Vice-President, and the members of the House and Senate.

The message was then presented, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

A bill to supply an omission in the last Indian Appropriation bill was reported by Mr. DAWKS, (rep. of Mass.), and passed.

The House then, at three o'clock, adjourned.

THE MESSAGE.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops and have been spared from complications and war with foreign nations.

In our midst comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the franchise is still denied to many of our citizens.

THE RELUCTANT FRANCHISE. has, by violence and intimidation, been denied to citizens in exceptional cases in several of the States lately in rebellion, and the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed. The States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas have been restored to representation in our national councils.

GEORGIA TO COME IN NEW YEARS. Georgia, the only State now without a representation, may confidently be expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the new year, and then, let us hope, will be completed the work of reuniting the nation.

OUR EXISTING WAR BROKE OUT IN EUROPE. the protection of the United States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of North Germans domiciled in French territory. Instructions were issued to grant the protection. This has been followed by an extension of American protection to citizens of Saxony, Hesse and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Colombia, Portugal, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Venezuela in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant and severe labor, and we are anxious to see it terminated by a good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of the government, and, as I am officially informed, equally so to the satisfaction of the government of North Germany.

RECOGNITION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. As soon as I learned that a republic had been proclaimed at Paris and that the people of France had acquiesced in the change the Minister of the United States was directed by telegram to recognize it and tender my congratulations and those of the people of the United States. The re-establishment in France of a system of government disconnected with the dynastic traditions of Europe appeared to be a proper subject for the felicitations of Americans. Should the present struggle result in attacking the hearts of the French to our simpler forms of representative government, it would be a boon to the world.

While we make no effort to impose our institutions upon the inhabitants of other countries, and while we adhere to our traditional neutrality in civil contests, we cannot be indifferent to the spread of American political ideas in a great and highly civilized country like France. We were asked by the new government to use our good offices jointly with those of European Powers in the interests of peace. Answer was made that the established policy and the true interests of the United States forbade them to interfere in European questions jointly with the European Powers. I asserted informally and unofficially that the government of North Germany was not then disposed to listen to such representations from any Powers, and though earnestly wishing to see the blessings of peace restored to Germany, I declined, on the part of this government, to take a step which would only result in injury to our true interests without advancing the object for which our intervention was invoked. Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour that action will be heartily taken.

I deemed it prudent, in view of the number of persons of German and French birth living in the United States, to issue, as I have done, a proclamation defining the duties of persons residing within the United States, and to advance their duties and obligations, have assisted in preventing violations of the neutrality of the United States.

IT IS NOT UNDERSTOOD that the condition of the Insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the stage of the contest the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arbitrary arrests, of confiscation, and of military trial and execution of persons residing within the United States, and to advance their duties and obligations, have assisted in preventing violations of the neutrality of the United States.

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testimony submitted by the two governments, and awarded the judgment of the United States. It is requested to consent, and did consent, that British occupation of the fort of Hudson Bay Company should be terminated at the expiration of the year, however, that this part of the boundary should be definitely fixed by a joint commission of the two governments, and that the United States should be authorized to send a commission on the part of the United States, and recommend an appropriation for that purpose. The United States has been in a manner marked from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS. I regret to say that no conclusion has been reached by the joint commission of the two governments, and that the United States has been in a manner marked from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

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